

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 01446 291518Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-01 PER-01 STE-01
/034 W

-----022838 300347Z /64

R 291335Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5499

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, PFOR
SUBJECT: PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR FSS PERSONNEL - NORWAY

REF: A. 77 OSLO 4765
B. 77 OSLO 5231
C. 77 STATE 276008

1. REFS A AND B CONTAINED DRAFT DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO REVISE
BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
BY EMBASSY STAFF PERSONNEL. REF C WAS DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL TO
TRANSMIT NOTE TO GON WHICH WAS DONE ON 28 NOVEMBER 1977. IN THEIR
REPLY, REPEATED PARA 2 BELOW, THE GON HAS REFUSED TO REVISE THE
AGREEMENT; HOWEVER, IT DID AGREE TO THE PROPOSAL CONTAINED REF
B THAT STAFF PERSONNEL SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO REPLACE THOSE
VEHICLES QUOTE TOTALLY WRECKED OR IRREVOCABLY STOLEN UNQUOTE.
EMBASSY FEELS THAT WE HAVE NOW DONE ALL WITHIN OUR POWER TO
RECTIFY DISCRIMINATORY SITUATION REGARDING STAFF IMPORTATION
OF VEHICLES AND REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON NEXT STEPS
TO BE TAKEN.

2. QUOTE: THE ROYAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE M/76 OF 28
NOVEMBER 1977 CONCERNING DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION OF AUTOMOBILES
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BY THE EMBASSY'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF MEMBERS.
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAS BY LETTER OF 10 MARCH THIS YEAR
INFORMED THIS MINISTRY THAT THEY CANNOT CONSENT TO THE PROPOSAL
OF THE EMBASSY TO REVISE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES
OF 1950/51 IN SUCH A WAY THAT MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND
TECHNICAL STAFF BE ALLOWED TO IMPORT TWO CARS DURING THEIR PERIOD
OF SERVICE IN LIEU OF ONE. THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAS, HOWEVER,

AGREED TO THE EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL THAT MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF BE ALLOWED TO REPLACE A DUTY-FREE AUTOMOBILE IN CASES WHERE THE FIRST IMPORTED CAR HAS BEEN TOTALLY WRECKED OR IRREVOCABLY STOLEN. THE CONDITION FOR SUCH REPLACEMENT WOULD BE THAT APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATION IS GIVEN EITHER THAT A WRECKED CAR HAS BEEN DESTROYED OR THAT CUSTOMS DUTIES HAVE BEEN PAID FOR THE WRECK OR THAT A STOLEN CAR IS CONSIDERED DEFINITELY LOST. THE ROYAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. OSLO, 21 MARCH 1978. UNQUOTE.

3. HAVING GONE AS FAR AS WE CAN ON ISSUE OF IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES, THERE NOW REMAIN QUESTIONS OF VALUE ADDED TAX (MOM'S IN NORWAY) AND GASOLINE TAXES FOR STAFF PERSONNEL. STATE 008609 AND 050594 INDICATED THAT POSTS WERE NOT RPT NOT TO UNDERTAKE NEW INITIATIVES RE TAX EXEMPTION FOR STAFF PENDING DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS BASED ON REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS AND TAX RELIEF. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING APPRAISED OF STATUS OF COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND WHEN WE CAN EXPECT DEPARTMENT'S GUIDELINES IN THIS AREA.

4. REQUEST ADVISE.
BREMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO01446
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780137-0602
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780314/aaaaalcf.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 497a5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OSLO 4765, 77 OSLO 5231, 77 STATE 276008
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3170352
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR FSS PERSONNEL - NORWAY
TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, PDIP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/497a5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014